



County of Los Angeles **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

September 7, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

DISASTER WEBSITE TO INFORM AND ASSIST COUNTY RESIDENTS IN TIMES OF DISASTER OR EMERGENCY

On July 20, 2004, on a motion by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, your Board instructed the Chief Administrative Office (CAO), Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to work with the Sheriff, the Fire Chief and the Director of Public Works, and other key officials from other County agencies to develop plans for a post-disaster website. The purpose of the website will be to provide emergency information for county residents in times of disaster or emergency.

OEM established an ad hoc committee comprised of the departments listed above, along with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the Internal Services Department (ISD) to identify issues and review information currently available to County residents. The committee is recommending that the information needed by residents can be made readily available on the existing County public website (www.lacounty.info). Following the 2002 Williams and Curve Fires and the 2003 Padua Hills Fire, OEM and the CAO Office of Public Affairs created web pages to assist the public in finding resources to assist in recovery from the devastating fires.

The CAO's Office Public Affairs developed these web pages as part of the County's public website with content provided by OEM. Concerned county residents could easily find disaster-specific information, and the feedback OEM received from fire victims and from local cities was very positive. We are recommending that we continue this practice of establishing disaster-specific web pages within the existing County public website. ISD has also recommended that we use the existing County website. In implementing these web pages, OEM worked closely with Fifth District Deputies, and OEM will continue the practice of working with the appropriate Board office in future web page implementations.

County public safety departments routinely provide excellent and timely emergency alert information to the public through the local news media. The website will not replace, but will reinforce and supplement news media announcements.

The successful development and implementation by ISD of the "Amber Alert" web page also serves as a model for the development of the disaster specific web page on the County's website. The CAO Office of Public Affairs and ISD will begin the process of establishing start-up procedures and identifying funding sources for development costs.

OEM will continue working with the County's public safety agencies to develop the specific plans to include county emergency alert information. It will expand the Public Information function in the Emergency Operations Center to keep this website information current following a disaster.

The website will give us an excellent opportunity to give more information to people than can be compressed into news sound bites. For example, we can post full health advisories, and give "tips" about how to prepare for emergency evacuations. Questions regarding this may be directed to Constance Perett, OEM Administrator at (323) 980-2261 or Lee Sapaden, OEM Public Information Officer, at (323) 980-2257.

DEJ:BB
LS:cm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Sheriff
County Counsel
Fire Chief
Director Internal Services Department
Director of Public Social Services
Director of Public Works
Emergency Management Council